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In re Application of	:	
ABOUKRAT et al.	:	
Application No.: 10/551,369	:	DECISION
PCT No.: PCT/FR2004/000798	:	
Int. Filing Date: 30 March 2004	:	
Priority Date: 31 March 2003	:	
Attorney Docket No.: 55930/DBP/N75	:	
For: COMPUTER DEVICE FOR MANAGING	:	
DOCUMENTS IN MULTI-USER MODE	:	

This is a decision on applicants' "PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.47(a)" filed 23 March 2007 in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

**BACKGROUND**

On 30 March 2004, applicants filed international application PCT/FR2004/000798, which designated the United States and claimed a priority date of 31 March 2003. A copy of the international application was communicated from the International Bureau to the USPTO on 21 October 2004. The thirty-month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired at midnight on 30 September 2005.

On 28 September 2005, applicants filed a submission for entry into the national stage in the United States which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the U.S. Basic National Fee and the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.492(e) for providing the oath or declaration later than thirty months from the priority date.

On 28 September 2006, the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) mailed a NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) indicating, *inter alia*, that an oath or declaration of the inventors in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a)-(b) was required.

On 23 March 2007, applicants filed a petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, a declaration of inventors, a petition/fee for a four-month extension of time, a declaration of facts by Jean-Yves Placais, a copy of a letter from Mr. Placais to non-signing inventor Mr. Aboukrat dated 28 February 2007 and an English translation thereof, and a copy of a letter from Mr. Aboukrat to Mr. Placais dated 16 March 2007 and an English translation thereof.

### **DISCUSSION**

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h); (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventor refuses to execute the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort; (3) a statement of the last known address of the missing inventor; and (4) an oath or declaration by each 37 CFR 1.47(a) applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor.

As to item (1), the fee has been paid.

As to item (2), it has been established that the non-signing inventor Maurice Aboukrat refuses to execute the application.

As to item (3), a statement of the last known address of the non-signing inventor has been provided.

As to item (4), a declaration by each 37 CFR 1.47(a) applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor has been provided.

### **Declaration of Inventors**

The declaration of inventors filed 23 March 2007 is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a)-(b).

### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, applicants' renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is **GRANTED**.

As provided in 37 CFR 1.47(a), a notice of the filing of this application will be forwarded to non-signing inventor at his last known address of record.

A notice of the filing of the application under 37 CFR 1.47(a) will be published in the Official Gazette.

This application is being forwarded to the National Stage Processing Branch of the Office of PCT Operations to continue national stage processing of the application, including the accordation of a 35 U.S.C. §§371(c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4) date of **23 March 2007**.



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